ABSTRACT

Monoclonal antibodies are provided that can bind to the IL12R β2 chain expressed on the cell surface of human lymphocytes, where said biding prevents the IL12R β2 chain-mediated STAT4 phosphorylation and/or said binding prevents the IL12R β2 chain from the formation of a complex with other membrane associated proteins, and/or said biding prevents the IL12R β2 chain from dimerization to the IL12R β1 chain. The antibodies may be combined with autoantigens or with antibodies to co-stimulatory receptors on T-cells or antigen presenting cells. These antibodies and their combinations are also provided as pharmaceutical compositions for the treatment of autoimmune diseases.